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Frances Doyle

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6/17/04

Attorney Docket No.: FUJY 18.466 (100794-11640)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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JUN 14 2004

OFFICIAL

Inventor: HIROYUKI ASANO  
Confirmation No.: 8750  
Serial No.: 09/815,843  
Filed: March 22, 2001  
Title: SUBSCRIBER TESTING SYSTEM  
Examiner: BARRY W. TAYLOR  
Group Art Unit: 2643

June 14, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

SIR:

Applicant hereby petitions for a one-month extension of time, a petition pursuant to 37

C.F.R. 1.136(a) and authorization to charge the requisite fee being enclosed.

In response to the Office Action dated February 12, 2004, please consider the following:

06/18/2004 SCARMICH 00000001 501290 09815843

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None of cited references, Kellock et al. (Kellock), Juntunen et al. (Juntunen) and Tiihonen et al. (Tiihonen), explicitly disclose the features 1 and 2 of applicant's claimed invention as pointed out above for at least the following reasons.

Kellock shows that in Fig. 1, 2 and 5, a network connection unit 210 of an access node 2 connects the access node 2 to a local exchange 1 via a V5.2 interface. However in contrast to applicant's claimed invention, a test unit 211 is not connected to the local exchange 1 and is connected to a network management system via a Q3 interface. The Q3 interface is a network management interface and differs from the V5 interface that is an interface between a switch (local exchange) and a communication node (access node).

Thus, the reference Kellock does not disclose or teach the features 1 and 2 of applicant's claimed invention.

In the reference Juntunen, the V5 interface is not used for testing a subscriber's line and a subscriber circuit. Juntunen shows that user (subscriber) port states (BLOCKED state, OPERATIONAL state) of an access node AN2, accommodating a subscriber terminal equipment TE, are monitored various network elements (LE, AN1 and AN2 in Figure) using a status engine. Neither reference Kellock or Juntunen, singly or in combination, teaches or discloses the features 1 and 2 of applicant's claimed invention.

Tiihonen shows a subscriber multiplexer (MUX1 or MUX2 in Fig. 2) that allows checking of a condition of its subscriber interfaces. The multiplexer is connected to a telephone exchange (1) via a PCM connection. The frame structure of the PCM connection is in accordance with G.732 and the interface between the multiplexer and the telephone exchange is a V2 interface in accordance with Q.512. The V2 interface differs from the V5 interface.


Neither reference Kellock or Tiihonen, singly or in combination, teaches or discloses the features 1 and 2 of applicant's claimed invention.

Because the combination of references does not describe nor even suggest the unique combination of features claimed by the applicant, it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn and the claims passed to allowance. In addition each of applicant's dependent claims includes features providing further advantages and distinguishing features from the cited references.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Brian S. Myers  
Reg. No. 46,947

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304  
Telephone: (212) 940-8703  
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987  
Docket No.: FUJY 18.466 (100794-11640)  
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